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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,208	06/27/2003	Hiromichi Itoh	Q76307	5947
7590	08/05/2004			
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037			EXAMINER NGUYEN, JOHN QUOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3654	

DATE MAILED: 08/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/607,208

Applicant(s)

ITOH, HIROMICHI

Examiner

John Q. Nguyen

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13, 16-18 and 20-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 14, 15 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/693,968.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/27/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

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Applicant's election without traverse of the species of Fig. 4, claims 12, 14, 15, 19 in the reply filed on 7/15/04 is acknowledged.

Claims 13, 16-18, 20-22 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 7/15/04. It should be noted that claims 20 and 21 do not read on the elected species.

The drawings filed 10/31/03 are acceptable.

Claims 12, 14, 15, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For clarity and/or definiteness, it appears that —guiding—should be inserted before “face” (claim 12, line 2 from bottom, claim 14, claim 15), that “A” should be inserted before “cutting” (claim 15, line 1), that —at least one—should be inserted after “said” (Claim 15, line 9 and 10), that “which” (claim 19, line 2) should be deleted.

The following appear to lack sufficient antecedent basis (in the claim): “the differentiation” (claims 12, 14).

In claim 14, line 9, it is not clear to what “which” is referring.

All claims should be revised carefully to correct all other deficiencies similar to the ones noted above. The non-elected claims should also be similarly corrected at the

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same time so that the application can be allowed without delay should the generic claims become allowable.

Claims 12, 14, 15, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Seelinger (US 4438888).

The admitted prior art discussed on pages 1-3 of the specification discloses substantially all the claimed features. Seelinger discloses another similar apparatus in which a plurality of idler rollers 18 guide respective webs 12. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to alternatively provide the admitted prior art apparatus with guide rollers as taught by Seelinger to guide the individual webs therefore inherently providing the claimed benefit of eliminating the differentiation. The claimed coefficient of dynamic friction is deemed inherent in the guides of the admitted prior art and Seelinger or would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide to the guides of the admitted prior art as modified by Seelinger to minimize drag and wear/tear/stretch on the webs and, therefore, eliminate tensile strength differences between upstream and downstream of the guides; a coefficient of 0 being the obvious goal for a directional guide.

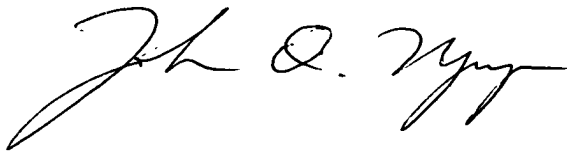
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-

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2689. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Matecki, can be reached on (703) 308-2688. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-4177.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Q. Nguyen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John Q. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
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